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ZAI JI TIAN,		
	Plaintiff(s),	NOTICE OF EXCHANG OF AMENDED
- against-		EXPERT WITNESS
	*	<u>INFORMATION</u>
WAYNE AUDIBERT and N	IFI INTERACTIVE	
LOGISTICS, LLC,	•	Civil Docket No:
		18-CV-7119
	Defendant(s).	

Please take notice that pursuant to the FRCP 26 and the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules governing the Exchange of Expert Information, Plaintiff, **ZAI JI TIAN**, intends to call the following:

EXPERTS:

- 1) ANDREW A. MEROLA, M.D., who is expected to testify at the time of trial as to the injuries of this plaintiff as contained in his medical records. The expert will base his opinions on plaintiff's medical history, medical records, findings in regard to diagnostic tests, including CT scans, MRI's and X-rays if applicable, and all other pertinent facts admitted into evidence.
- 2) Annexed hereto as Exhibit "1" is the amended narrative report prepared by the Expert Witness, ANDREW MEROLA, M.D., in which he will also rely upon.
- 3) Annexed hereto as Exhibit "2" and made part of are the curriculum vitae of, ANDREW MEROLA, M.D., which states his credentials as an expert witness to the subject matter to which he will testify.
- 4) Annexed hereto as **Exhibit "3"** is a fee letter provided by, **ANDREW MEROLA**, **M.D.**, itemizing the fees charged for his testimony.

Dated: Queens, New York August 19, 2020

Law Offices of Gary S. Park, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff
ZAI JI TIAN
39-01 Main Street, Suite 608
Flushing, New York 11354
(718) 445-1300

To:
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JACOBSON LLP
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WAYNE AUDIBERT and NFI
INTERACTIVE LOGISTICS, LLC
One Battery Park Plaza, 4th Floor
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Exhibit "1"

Andrew A. Merola, MD
Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
567 First Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

Amended Report

February 13, 2020

Law Offices of Gary S. Park, P.C. 39-01 Main Street, Suite 608 Flushing, NY 11354

Re: Zai Ji Tian

D/A: May 3, 2018

History of Illness: Zai Ji Tian initially presented to my office on June 17, 2019. He presented to the office status post a motor vehicle accident. He was referred by Dr. Arden Kaisman. The accident occurred on May 3, 2018. He complained of neck pain. He had had percutaneous discectomy. It had not been completely and entirely helpful. He had low back pain, which radiated into the lower extremities. Please note extensive medical records were available for review as brought in by the patient.

Past Medical History: Noncontributory.

Past Surgical History: Arthroscopy of left shoulder on September 14, 2018; cervical discectomy on January 9, 2019; lumbar laminectomy on August 8, 2019.

Physical Examination on Initial Visit: Cranial nerves were intact and nonfocal, Jaw jerk was negative. Cervical extension was 25 degrees (normal 75 degrees), flexion 40 degrees (normal 60 degrees), right lateral bending 40 degrees (normal 45 degrees), left lateral bending 40 degrees (normal 45 degrees), right lateral rotation 35 degrees (normal 80 degrees), and left lateral rotation 40 degrees (normal 80 degrees). Spasm and tenderness were present and palpable beyond those ranges of motion. Spurling maneuver reproduced pain in the neck, which radiated into the upper extremity, arms and hands. It produced pain, pins, needles, numbness, tingling and weakness. It was consistent with a cervical radiculopathy predominantly involving the sixth roots. Hoffmann's signs were positive. Decreased pinprick and tactile sensory findings in the C6 roots were appreciated. Lumbar spinal extension was 10 degrees (normal 65 degrees). Positive spinal Phalen's maneuver noted. Forward flexion was 40 degrees (normal 60 degrees), right lateral bending 40 degrees (normal 40 degrees), left lateral bending 40 degrees (normal 40 degrees), right lateral rotation 35 degrees (normal 80 degrees), and left lateral rotation 40 degrees (normal 90 degrees). Spasm and tenderness were present and palpable beyond those ranges of motion. All ranges of motion were measured using a goniometer. Straight leg raise on the right side was at 35 degrees. There was contralateral straight leg raise, Achilles tendon reflexive loss and L5 and S1 dermato-myotomal distribution sensory loss.

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Medical Records: Medical records were available for review inclusive of percutaneous discectomy of the cervical spine on January 9, 2019.

EMGs: EMGs and nerve conduction studies demonstrated cervical radiculopathy at C5-C6 and lumbosacral radiculopathy at L5-S1.

MRI Films: MRI films dated June 22, 2018 revealed cervical spine C5-C6 protrusion and MRI films dated July 25, 2019 revealed L5-S1 protrusion.

MRI films dated June 22, 2018 revealed cervical spine C5-C6 protrusion and L5-S1 protrusion.

The patient would be a candidate for laminectomy at L5-S1 vertebral segment. Predominant indication for laminectomy at that time was to prevent further neurological deterioration as a consequence of severe lumbosacral radiculopathy with correlative diagnostic imaging studies and physical findings.

Counseling Session: Accordingly, I had counseled the patient regarding current condition to include treatment options and alternatives to include surgical versus non-surgical care and management, surgical procedure and type, realistic goals and expectations of surgical intervention, and potential surgical complications. Patient had verbalized to me a good overall understanding therein and we would be proceeding forward accordingly.

At that point in time, I also wanted Mr. Tian to update magnetic resonance imaging scanning of the cervical spine discussed at length and in detail with the patient as well.

Subsequent Treatment: On August 8, 2019, I performed surgery on Mr. Tian at The New York Methodist Hospital. The surgery performed was a decompressive lumbar laminectomy with medial facetectomy; decompression of neurological elements and nerve roots, L5 roots; decompressive lumbar laminectomy; medial facetectomy; decompression of neurological elements and nerve roots, S1 roots; utilizing intraoperative fluoroscopy; and intraoperative evoked potential monitoring.

The indications for surgery were that the patient sustained traumatic low back injury. There was severe pain in the back objectively correlated by severely restricted range of motion, palpable spasm inclusive of positive sp0ianl Phalen maneuver, and positive straight leg raise to left lower extremity, L5-S1 sensory reflexive and motor loss, left side greater that right, although bilateral involvement was present. Films were available in the operating room delineated the appropriate surgical site and levels inclusive of left para-foraminal herniation at the L5-S1 vertebral segment.

September 16, 2019 was the patient's first postoperative visit. There were no acute complaints. Patient was accompanied to the office by some friends and family members.

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Physical findings on examination demonstrated the patient to be otherwise alert and oriented x4. Mentation and affect were appropriate. Gait was bilateral heel-to-toe reciprocal. Cranial nerves were intact and nonfocal. Jaw jerk was negative. Swallowing was intact. Phonation was intact. Chest showed good lateral expansion. Abdomen was soft and nontender. Calves were soft and nontender. There was no evidence of DVT. Incisional site and area were healing, dry, non-erythematous, nontender, non-fluctuant, and non-indurated. Sensory, motor, and neurological function of the upper and lower extremities was tested and compared to preoperative findings and found to be stable.

Mr. Tian was stable post-surgically. He could start physical therapy on an as tolerated basis. No bending, no lifting, no twisting, no repetitive motion to the neck and back. Return visit with me in approximately eight to 12 weeks' time pending his overall clinical course.

Mr. Tian returned to the office on February 10, 2010. He was status post decompressive lumbar laminectomy with partial discectomy at L5-S1 vertebral segment with surgical intervention on August 8, 2019. Thus far, patient indicated that surgical intervention had been helpful in terms of preventing further significant severe shooting pain into the lower extremity, legs and feet. Patient underwent surgery and had tried to get back to active work and duties pending his overall clinical course indicating working with activity modifications and restrictions and trying to do the best he could on a daily basis.

The patient reported mechanical axial neck stiffness. Patient reported mechanical axial low back stiffness. Patient indicated that surgical intervention had otherwise been helpful thus far in terms of preventing further significant severe shooting pain into the lower extremities.

Physical findings on examination demonstrated the patient to be otherwise alert and oriented x4. Mentation and affect were appropriate. Gait was mildly antalgic and kyphotic with a reversal of lordosis present upon ascent. There was palpable spasm in the cervical, thoracic, and low back regions. Ranges of motion were tested to the maximum limits of spasm and measured by goniometer. Cervical extension was 40 degrees (normal 75 degrees), flexion was 40 degrees (normal 60 degrees), right lateral bending was 40 degrees (normal 45 degrees), left lateral bending was 40 degrees (normal 45 degrees), right lateral rotation was 50 degrees (normal 80 degrees), and left lateral rotation was 50 degrees (normal 80 degrees). Spasm and tenderness were present and palpable beyond those ranges of motion. There was decreased pinprick and tactile sensory findings, C5 and C6 roots predominant, mildly positive Spurling maneuver. Lumbar spinal extension was 30 degrees (normal 65 degrees), forward flexion was 40 degrees (normal 60 degrees), right lateral bending was 40 degrees (normal 40 degrees), left lateral bending was 40 degrees (normal 40 degrees), right lateral rotation was 35 degrees (normal 80 degrees), and left lateral rotation was 40 degrees (normal 80 degrees). Spasm and tenderness

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were present and palpable beyond those ranges of motion. Ranges of motion were measured using a goniometer. Decreases in pinprick and tactile sensory findings were noted in the L5 and S1 roots of the lower extremity, legs and feet with a left Achilles tendon reflexive loss and some difficulty heel-toe raising left side worse than right.

Physical findings on examination as per above demonstrated chronic permanent residual spinal range of motion loss noted in both the neck and back regions with chronic permanent residual neurological deficits of the upper and lower extremities particularly the L5 and S1 roots consistent with a history of trauma.

My recommendation was to continue conservative management, which would include a home therapy program, activity modifications and restrictions, working on an as tolerated basis. Avoid bending, lifting, and twisting and avoid other activities that reproduce pain and symptoms.

I discussed this at length and in great detail with the patient who has verbalized to me good understanding therein including future care and treatment, which include physiatric management, which becomes more likely over the course of time particularly with age.

With respect to surgical observational care and management over the course of time, this is indicated and required as well, which of course will become more necessary as the patient gets older as well given the history of traumatic injuries to the neck and back regions.

Review of Records: I have had an opportunity to personally review the following medical records. MRI of the cervical spine done on 6/22/2018, MRI of the lumbar spine on 6/22/2018, MRI of the left shoulder, on 6/14/2018, MRI of the left knee on 6/14/2018, at Redtree Radiology. Medical records from Spencer A. Colden, M.D., EMG and nerve conduction study of upper extremities on 7/7/2018, EMG and nerve conduction study on 7/21/2018 of lower extremities, Dr. Colden. Physical therapy notes. Medical records from Advanced Orthopaedics, Dr. Dov Berkowitz. Medical records from Dr. Arden Kaisman. Operative report from EMU Surgery Center, cervical discectomy and decompression of C4-C5 and C5-C6 discs, Dr. A. Kaisman, on 1/9/2019. Operative report from The NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens Hospital, arthroscopy of left shoulder by Dr. D. Berkowitz on 9/14/2018. MRI of the lumbar spine on 7/25/2019 at Kolb Radiology.

Causation: Within a reasonable degree of medical certainty the accident occurring on May 3, 2018 is the competent cause of injuries sustained to Mr. Zai Ji Tian's low back and neck requiring surgical intervention to the lumbar spine. Mr. Tian's injuries are permanent in nature.

Future Care and Management: Mr. Tian will require continued orthopaedic observational care and management visits approximately one to two times per year at a cost of \$275 per visit for his neck and back. He will also require surgical intervention in the future in the form of revision lumbar surgery at a cost of \$125,000 and possible cervical surgical intervention. Future care and

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management also include physical therapy approximately four times per month at a cost of \$150 per visit lifetime. He will also require pain care and management at a cost of \$250 per visit and MRIs to the neck and back once every 2 years' lifetime at a cost of \$1500 per study as well as x-ray studies of both the cervical and lumbar spines. Strict activity modifications and restrictions to include no bending, lifting, no twisting and no repetitive motion to the neck and back is recommended. Continued care and management and follow-up for his pain, medications on an as needed basis with appropriate care, management and precautions as prescribed by his treating pain physician.

I, Andrew Merola, M.D., being a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York, pursuant to CPLR Section 2106, do hereby affirm under the penalty of perjury that the statements and opinions contained herein are true and accurate and are all stated to a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Merola, M.D.

Exhibit "2"

Andrew A. Merola, MD

567 1st Street Brooklyn, NY 11215 718-783-5542

Email: andrewmerolamd@gmail.com

Current Position:

Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery SUNY Downstate Medical Center 1/01/07 to present

Academic Rank:

Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery S.U.N.Y. Downstate Medical Center

Kings County Hospital

Brooklyn, New York 1/01/07 to present

Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgary

S.U.N.Y. Downstate Medical Center 9/01/96 -12/31/06

Director of Residency Research and Spinal Research, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

9/01/86 to present

Fellowship:

University of Colorado Health Science Center

at Denver

1995 - 1996

Spinal Surgery Fellowship- Anthony P. Dwyer, MD

Thomas G. Lowe, MD 8/01/95 - 8/01/96

Resident Education:

State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Kings County Medical

Center

Brooklyn, New York. 7/01/90 - 6/31/95

1994-1995

Chief Resident, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

1991-1995

Resident, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

1990-1991

Intern, Department of General Surgery.

Education:

1986-1990

Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, DC

MD 5/15/90.

Honors: Charles H. Epps Award for Orthopaedics.

1981-1985

New York University, Manhattan, New York

BA, Chemistry 6/15/85.

1977-1981

Xavier High School, Manhattan, New York

Licensure:

American Board Of Orthopaedic Surgery: Certified July 1998

Re-certified 2008

American Board of Spinal Surgery: Charter Member September 1998

New York State 189354

New York State Department Of Health- SUNY, Brooklyn Non-

Transplant Anatomic Tissue Bank

Materials Test Systems Operator - MTS Systems

Grants:

Scoliosis Research Society Scholarship Grant to evaluate the

Genetic Etiology of AIS 2005

Research/ Scholarship:

I have achieved both National and International recognition as having had a major influence regarding the treatment of Adolescent Idiopathic Scollosis. (See Scollosis Society appointments and visiting professorships). I also supervise independent, productive investigative research through Downstate. All research and publications utilize Medical Students and Residents from SUNY Downstate. (See Peer-

reviewed publications).

Teaching:

I Supervise and Teach both medical students and residents at SUNY Downstate in the clinical setting, both office practice and surgical as well as investigative research. I have organized and help run the research activities through the Department of

Orthopedic Surgery at Downstate.

Professional Service:

I hold direct responsibility for the Spinal Surgical Service at Downstate and its affiliates. I am also an active member of multiple professional societal boards.

Affiliations:

Diplomat American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

Diplomat American Board of Spinal Surgery

Fellow of the Scoliosis Research Society

Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Member New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Past President of the Brooklyn Orthopaedic Society

Diplomat National Board of Medical Examiners

Chairman Website Committee Scollosis Research Society

Member American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; Evidence Analysis Work Group, Committee on the Spine; Spinal Surgery Guidelines

Member Medical School Interview Committee for the State University of New York Health Science Center Brooklyn

Member Search committee For the Saint Vincent's Hospital Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Member Interview Committee for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery SUNY Downstate

Member Selection Committee for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery SUNY Downstate

SUNY Downstate Medical School Mentor Program

Consulting Surgeon, A.T.A.N. Orthopedic Surgical Aid to the Children of Honduras

Consulting Surgeon Mariposa Foundation, Surgical aid to the Children of the Dominican Republic

Member, Core Curriculum on Spinal Surgery for the Scoliosis Research Society

Faculty, Passionate About Spines, Brocket Hall, London UK

Faculty, Spinal Deformity Study group on Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis

Faculty, The Anterior Harm's Surgical Study Group

Guest Lecturer, New York Organ Donor Network. Spinal and Orthopedic Harvesting, October 2000

Faculty, Principles In Spinal Fusion: Cadaver Lab at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion. June 16-17 2001

Guest Lecturer, Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery Anterior Scoliosis Surgery; The effect of Instrumentation on Load Sharing and Load Transfer. Grand Rounds, August 4 1999.

Visiting Surgeon, Professor Jürgen Harms, MD: Spinal Surgery center of Germany Klinikum Karisbad-Langensteinbach. Visiting Surgeon, 1997-1998

Guest Lecturer, University of Colorado; Spinal Surgery Lecture Series, 95-present

Guest Lecturer, Blomechanics Lecture Series at the Cooper Union School Of Engineering, 94- Present

Guest Lecturer, New York Medical College Dept. Of Orthopaedic Surgery, 94- Present

Visiting Surgeon, University of Hanover Hospital, Prof. Dr. A Von-Strempel 95-96

Visiting surgeon, German Scoliosis Center-WWK Clinic, Dr. Med. Metz-Stavenhagen. 94-95

Honors:

John H. Moe award for best Basic science Exhibit SRS 2002; Attenuation of Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor in Acute Spinal Cord Injury Treated with Intravenous Methylprednisolone.

Russell S. Hibbs Award For Clinical Excellence in Spinal Reconstructive Surgery 2000; First runner-up; Platelet Calmodulin Levels in AIS: A Predictor of Curve Progression and Severity. Scollosis Research Society, 35th Annual Meeting, October 2000

American Orthopaedic Association- Best Scientific Poster Exhibit 1999; Results Of The Scoliosis Research Society instrument for the Evaluation Of Surgical Outcome

In Adolescent Idiopathic Scollosis: A multicenter Study of 244 Patients, 112th Annual Meeting, June 1999.

Bernard Freundlich- Mercer Rang Paper Competition Award, 1995 Finite Element Model Analysis of a Lumbar Burst Fracture, Brooklyn Orthopaedic Society, May 1995

Russell S. Hibbs Award For Clinical Excellence in Spinal Reconstructive Surgery 1994. Meta-Analysis of Surgical Outcome in Scollosis: A Thirty Five-Year Review of Eleven Thousand Patients. Scollosis Research Society, 29th Annual Meeting, September 1994

Bernard Freundlich- Mercer Rang Paper Competition Award, 1994 Occipital Morphology: An anatomic Guide to Internal Fixation. Brooklyn Orthopaedic Society May 1994

Charles H. Epps Award for Orthopaedics, Howard University College of Medicine, May 1990

Textbooks:

Surgical Techniques for the Spine. Editors; Haher T, Merola A. Thleme, September 2004

Spinal Instrumentation Techniques-Anterior Scoliosis Surgery. Haher T, Merola A, Shin T, Caruso S. Published By the SRS, 2003

Spinal Deformities: The Comprehensive Text, Chapter 16 Biomechanics of the Intervertebral Disk. Meroia A, Castro A, Enguidanos S, Haher T. Edited by R. Dewald, Thieme 2003

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State of the Art Review- Current Concepts in Spinal Biomechanics II Vol. 10/ Number3 September 1996 Edited by Haher, T and Merola, A

Textbook of Spinal Surgery: Bridwell and Dewald Second Edition, 1996 Biomechanics of Three-Dimensional Scoliosis Correction Giehl JP, Haher TR, Merola AA, Zipnick RI, Gorup J, Zielke K.

Lumbosacral Spinal Fusion edited by Margulies, JY; Instrumented Fusion's of the Lumbosacral Spine, a Technical Overview, Haher T, Gorup J, Merola A, Zipnick R, Caruso

Publications:

Juan C. Rodriguez-Olaverri, MD, PhD; Nicholas C. Zimick, BS; Andrew Merola, MD; Gema De Blas, MD, PhD; Jasus Burgos, MD; Gabriel Piza-Vallespir, MD; Eduardo Hevia, MD; Javier Vicente, MD; Ignacio Sanper, MD; Pedro Domenech, MD; Ignacio Regidor, MD, PhD Using Triggered Electromyographic Threshold in the Intercostal Muscles to Evaluate the Accuracy of Upper Thoracic Pedicie Screw Piacement (T3-T6). SPINE vol 133 N 7 E194 April 1

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Wilson PL, Newton PO, Wenger DR, Haher T, Merola AA, Lenke LG, Lowe TG, Clements DH, Betz RR: A Multi-Center Study Analyzing the Relationship of a Standard Radiographic Scoring System of Adolescent Idiopathic Scollosis and the Scollosis Society Research Instrument. SPINE 27: 2036-2040, 2002.

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Exhibit "3"

Andrew A. Merola, MD
Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
567 First Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

February 14, 2020

Dear Gentlepersons:

My testimony and medical preparation fee are \$650 per hour for time away from the practice of medicine. This fee represents professional services for legal testimony and or preparation.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Merola, M.D.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Civil Docket No.: 18-CV-7119

ZAI JI TIAN,

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

WAYNE AUDIBERT and NFI INTERACTIVE LOGISTICS, LLC,

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF EXCHANGE OF AMENDED EXPERT **WITNESS INFORMATION**

Law Offices of Gary S. Park, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

ZAI JI TIAN

39-01 Main Street - Suite 608 Flushing, New York 11354 (718) 445-1300

To:		
Service of a copy of the within		is hereby admitted.
Dated:		
***************************************	Attorney(s) for	
NOTICE OF ENTRY:		

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the within is a true copy of an order entered in office of the Clerk of the above Court on

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the within proposed order will be presented for settlement and entry at the Courthouse on 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Clerk of the Part of this Court where the within described motion was heard.

Dated: Queens, New York August 19, 2020

As Designated Above

YOSEF H. LEE, PSQ. Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)